

PTO/PCT Rec'd 20 MAR 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Graham PERRET et al.

: Attn: BOX PCT

Serial No. 10/018,361

: Docket No. 2001_1855A

Filed December 19, 2001

DEEP WATER TLP TETHER SYSTEM
[Corresponding to PCT/NO00/00215
Filed June 22, 2000]

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

#5

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449. A legible copy of reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed. **The references cited herein were cited in a Norwegian Search Report enclosed.**

1a. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

- (1) the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**
- (2) the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

- 1c. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

- a. that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
- b. that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

- a. a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

- b. [] a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
- c. [] the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
- d. [] the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
- e. [X] concise explanation is set forth below for references AJ and AL.

NO 1997 3045 describes a welding connection on a tension leg. The application shows a welded transition piece that is used between an anchoring device on the sea-bed and the tension leg.

NO 1998 3796 is directed to the supporting of a riser in an offshore structure, particularly the support for a riser at the bottom of a floating offshore structure. The application describes marine risers in particular, and the use of this on tension leg platforms. The application claims a tension relievable joint for use on tubes in floating systems where a float is exposed to variable movement during the influence of wind, currents and waves, and where the tube has one end connected to the sea-bed and an upper section intended to go through an opening in the bottom of the float.

- 5. [] A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham PERRET et al.

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March 20, 2002

TELEFON SAKSBEH.:

22387505

VAR REF.:

19993116/B63B/MJ

DERES REF.:

JH/H/101181

DATO (AAAA.MM.DD):

2000 -01- 17

Svarfrist¹ : 6 måneder fra dato
Patentsøker : Aker Engineering AS

UTTALELSE VEDRØRENDE PATENTSØKNAD 1999 3116 (må oppgis ved svar)

Deres søknad vedrørende dypvanns-strekkestagsystem for strekkstag-plattformer er nå tatt opp til behandling ved foretatt nyhetsgranskning.

Følgende publikasjoner anses relevante ved en vurdering av søknadsgjenstandens patenterbarhet:

1. NO 19973045 *i søker*
2. US 4,117,691
3. GB 1509503
4. NO 19983796

REEST AVAIL ABLE COPY

I publikasjon 1 er det vist strekkstag som er satt sammen av rørdeler med ulik diameter. Strekkstagsdiameter anses å reduseres trinnvis mot havbunnen.

Publikasjon 2 viser en flytende boreplattform. Det er anordnet en søylestruktur fra plattformkroppen og ned mot havbunnen. Søylestrukturen er bygd opp av rørseksjoner som har ulik diameter, slik at søylens diameter trinnvis avtar mot havbunnen. Søylen skal benyttes i ballasteringsøyemed.

Plattformkonstruksjonen i publikasjon 3 har søylestrukturer hvis diameter øker trinnvis mot havbunnen.

I publikasjon 4 vises et rør, fortrinnsvis et stigerør, som er satt sammen av ulike rørdeler på en slik måte at rørets diameter avtar mot havbunnen.

De selvstendige patentkravene må anses foregrepel av den teknikken som er kjent fra de framtrukne publikasjonene. Fra publikasjon 1 må det anses som kjent teknikk å bygge opp et strekkstag med rørdeler av ulik diameter slik at stagets diameter avtar mot havbunnen.

¹ Svar må være innkommet til Patentstyret senest fristens siste dag. Unnlater søkeren å avgive uttalelse eller foreta handling for rettelse av anmeldelsen før denne er over, vil søknaden bli henlagt, dog med mulighet for gjenopptagelse, jf patentlovens § 15 og avgiftsreglene. Ytterligere informasjon om hvordan dette gjøres finnes i "Anbefalinger om innlevering av dokument og betaling av avgift til Styret for det industrielle rettsvern".

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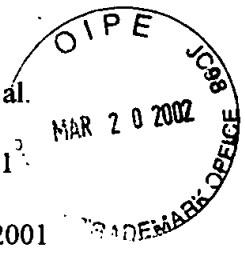
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Serial No. 10/018,361

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Docket No. 2001_1855A

Confirmation No. 7862

DEEP WATER TLP TETHER SYSTEM
[Corresponding to PCT/NO00/00215
Filed June 22, 2000]

PATENT OFFICE FEE TRANSMITTAL FORM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Attached hereto is a check in the amount of \$130.00 to cover Patent Office fees relating to filing the following attached papers:

Late filing of executed Declaration \$130.00

A duplicate copy of this paper is being submitted for use in the Accounting Division, Office of Finance.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-0975, with the EXCEPTION of deficiencies in fees for multiple dependent claims in new applications.

Respectfully submitted,

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